GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1289
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
DAMAGE OF GROUNDNUT CROP IN A.P.
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that groundnut crop in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh has been totally damaged due to attack of dreaded Bud Necrosic virus during the current year;

(b) if so, whether any group of scientists was sent to the affected areas to control the virus;

(c) if so, the outcome of the same; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to check the spread of virus in future and also to provide compensation to the groundnut farmers whose crop has been completely damaged?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): The groundnut crop in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh has been damaged to some extent due to the attack of Bud Necrosis virus during the current year.

(b): Yes, Sir. Groups of Experts/Scientists from Acharya Ranga AgriculturalUniversity, Hyderabad, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), ICRISAT andState Department of Agriculture visited the affected area for on the spot evaluation and to suggest control measures for curtailing disease spread.

(c): The Scientists have suggested short term and long term measures to control the disease as under:

(I) Short-term Measures:
(i) Monitoring of thrips population and Bud Necrosis virus disease affected area;
(ii) spraying with pesticide viz., Monocrotophos in areas where crop is less than 45 days old;
(iii) education to extension workers and farmers in local language to create awareness about the disease etc.

(II) Long-term Measures:
(i) Development of Bud Necrosis virus resistant short duration varieties;
(ii) Monitoring of fields during the next Kharif season for the presence of virus disease in weed as well as the thrips population;
(iii) crop rotation with other crops like pearl-millet, pigeonpea, castor, etc. and
(iv) publicity through distribution of printed pamphlets/bulletins about the disease management.

(d): Following are the measures being taken to check the spread of the virus disease:

(i) Constitution of survey teams to create awareness among the farmers for undertaking control measures;

(ii) Training to farmers and other field functionaries in the proper diagnosis of the disease and the vector;

(iii) Publicity through Akashwani, Doordarshan and visual display in the Cinema Halls as well as distributionof pamphlets, etc. about the management of the disease; and

(iv) Application of pesticides, viz., Monocrotophos mixed with crude neem- oil for controlling the insect vector.

As regards compensation to the groundnut farmers, the State Government hasreported that the prospects of groundnut yield are very good in the State except in isolated cases.